Mixture of water in LPG Cylinders

†1739. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints from consumers of LPG cylinders filled with water at the time of its supply;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received by Government during the last three years in this regard and also less weighing LPG cylinders, State-wise; and

(c) the action taken by Government on each complaint, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have received 107 established complaints from the customers residing in various States during the last three years relating to water filled cylinders/under weight cylinders.

(c) Action against erring distributors has been taken as per the prevailing Marketing Discipline Guidelines/Distributorship Agreement by OMCs.

Financial Performance of HPCL

1740. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether HPCL has posted 82 per cent drop in net profit for the October-December, 2001 quarter than a year ago;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken for improving performance of HPCL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The percentage fall in profit of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

HPCL for the 3rd quarter ending 31.12.2001 compared to the previous year is due to the decline in international parity price of petroleum products, resulting in erosion in value of inventory as well as the net sales causing lower Profit Before Depreciation Interest and Tax (PBDIT), lower refinery margins due to sharp decline in product prices and provision of Deferred Tax in compliance with Accounting Standard-22. However, the situation in the current quarter has improved.

Exploration of Hydro-Carbon on KG Basin

1741. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation has recommended to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to undertake Hydro-carbon Exploratory activity in, Krishna-Godavari Basin along the Andhra Pradesh coast; and

(b) if so, the production of gas from this Basin during the last one year and what was the production target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) is engaged and has plans to continue the hydrocarbon exploratory activities in the on-land and offshore Petroleum Exploration License (PELs) areas under its operations including those obtained under New Exploration Licensing Policy-I in Krishna-Godavari Basin along the coast of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) The actual production of gas from the fields operated by ONGC in Krishna-Godavari Basin during the year 2000-01 was 1604 Million Standard Cubic Metre (MMSCM) against the gas sales target of 1170 MMSCM. As per ONGC's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) no gas production target was fixed for 2000-01.

As far as private/joint venture operations are concerned, the production of gas from Ravva field in Krishna-Godavari Basin